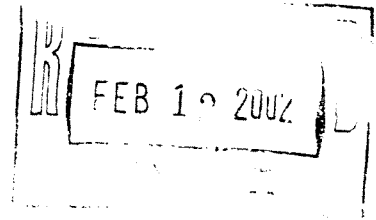




— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor



February 5, 2002

*Copies to: Larry S.
Megan
Kevin*

Jack McGraw, Acting Administrator
EPA, Region 8
999 18th St., Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Jack:

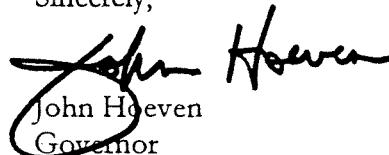
I wanted to drop you a short note on the State's Lignite Vision 21 project that is a state and private partnership, designed to expand the coal-fired electric generation of our country. Members of my administration will be meeting with your staff this week on that project.

I want to thank you for the recent visit by Kerry Clough and Dick Long of your office. I felt the visit was positive, as we search for ways to build additional power plants in North Dakota. This is a complex subject, and we look forward to working with Region 8 in resolving issues relating to that goal. Last week, the Department of Health provided Dick Long information pertaining to issues surrounding the PSD increment program. We look forward to exploring solutions with EPA, and how we can work together to maintain our air quality and grow our lignite industry to help meet our region's energy needs.

I was pleased to hear from Kerry Clough and Dick Long that EPA is committed to work with the state. I appreciate that commitment and believe it is the most effective way for us to maintain our air quality and foster a healthy lignite industry. As part of our working relationship, I would request that we delay your proposed Federal Register notices covering our state's program until our respective staff have had an opportunity to address and hopefully resolve complex air quality modeling issues. It is very important that the State and EPA work together and in unison to resolve these issues.

In the end, I believe we are headed in the same direction. I want to build new plants in North Dakota and to do them "the right way", while maintaining our air quality. I ask you to work with me to that end.

Sincerely,


John Hoeven
Governor

cc: Kerry Clough, EPA
✓ Dick Long, EPA

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